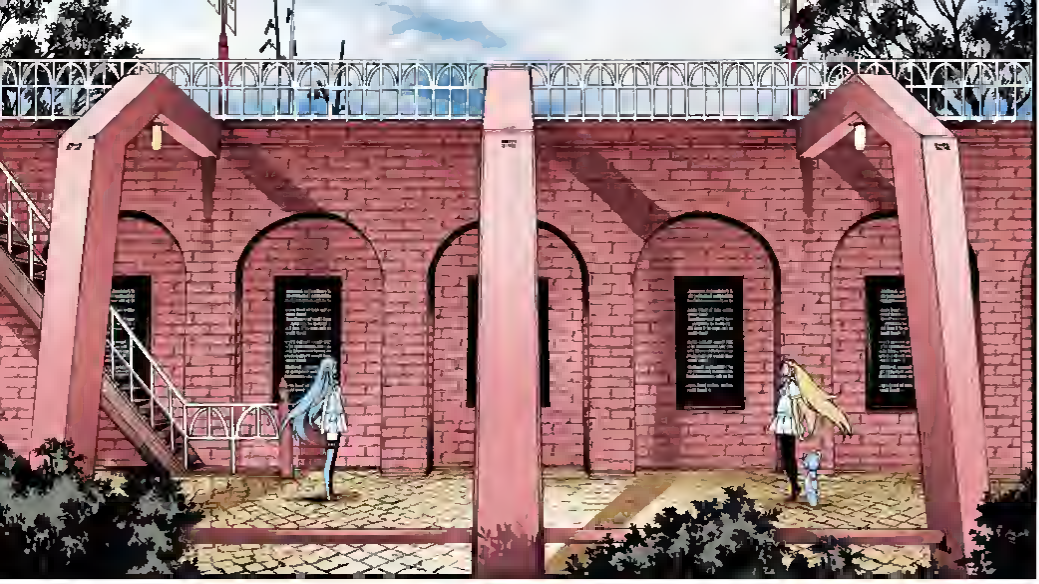
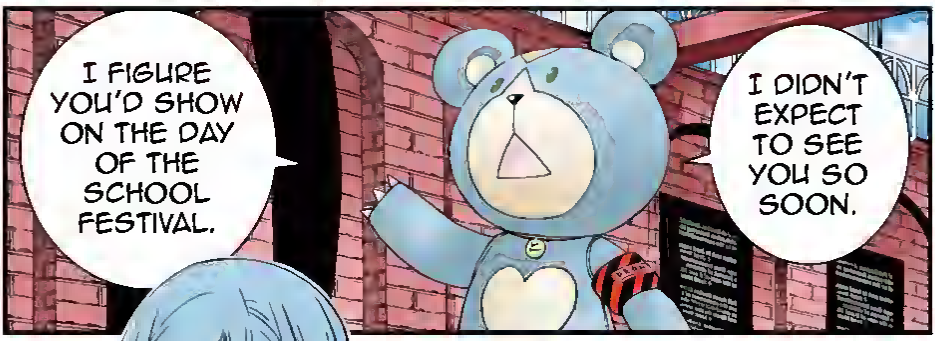
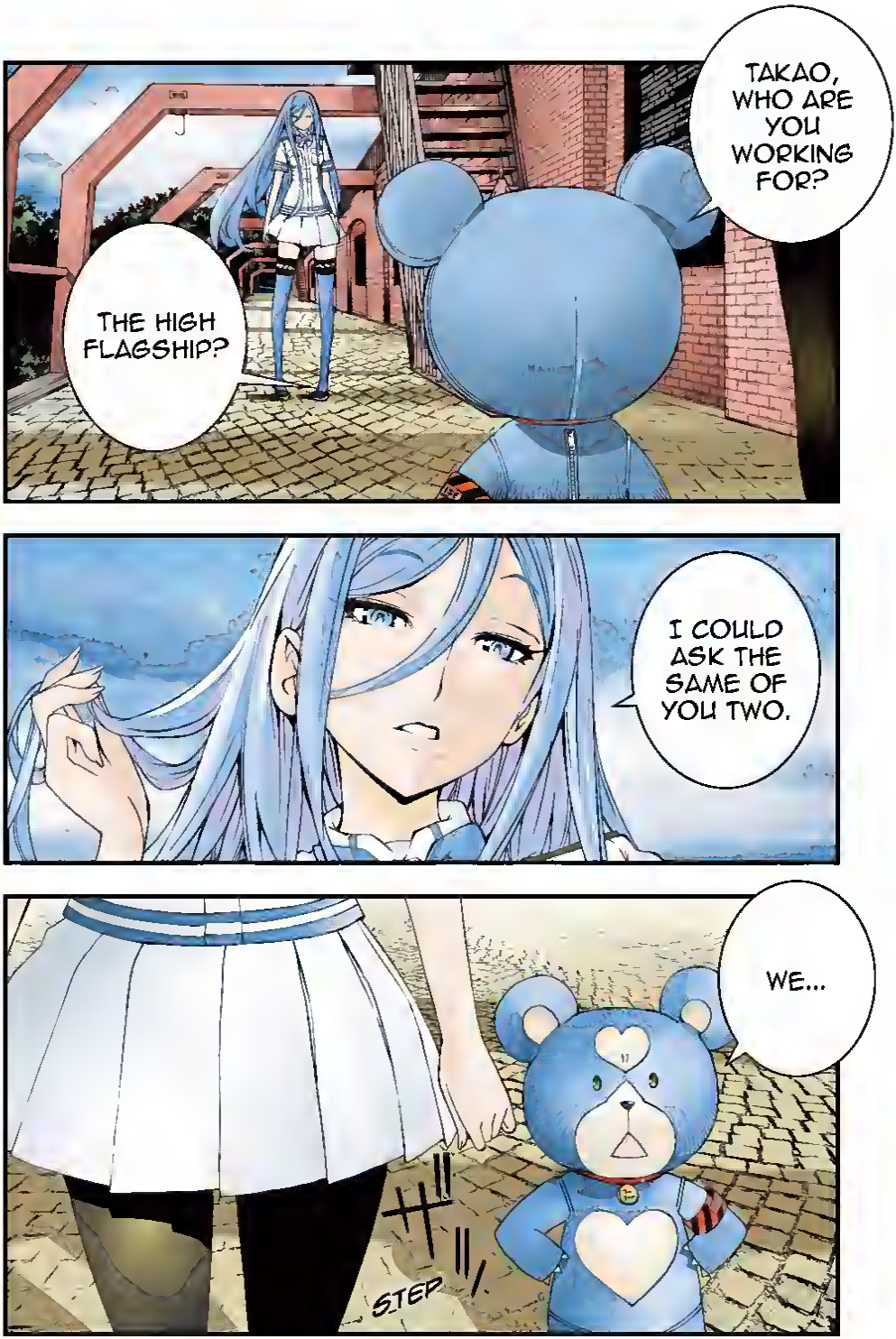



I FIGURE YOU'D SHOW ON THE DAY OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU SO SOON.

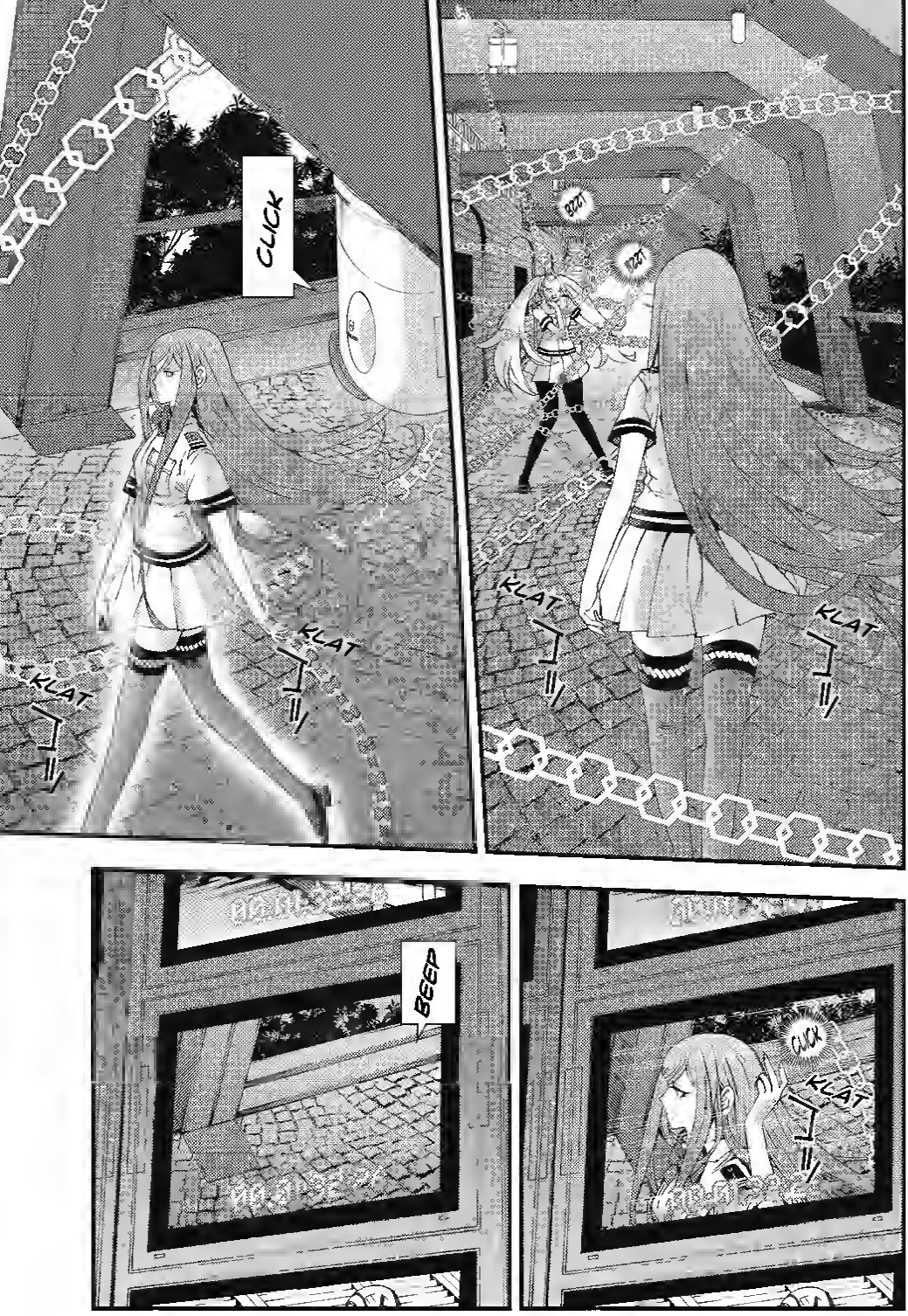
YEAH.
....

蒼き鋼のアルペジオ
ARPEGGIO OF BLUE STEEL
Depth:086
Ark Performance


TAKAO, WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
THE HIGH FLAGSHIP?
I COULD ASK THE SAME OF YOU TWO.
WE...
STEP

WE'RE DOING THIS...
...FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY, AND THE FOG.
...
I SEE.
CLICK

!?
CLICK
KREEEE
OUR...
...PERSONAL FORCE-FIELDS...
FWIP


CLICK
KLAT
KLAT
BZZT
BZZT
KLAT
KLAT
BEEP
CLICK
KLAT

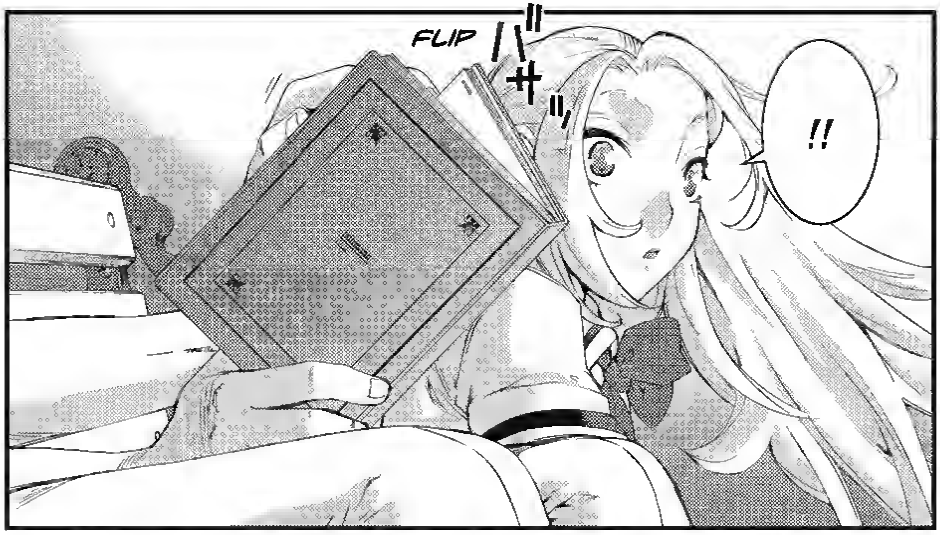
I CAN'T BELIEVE A HEAVY-CRUISER CLASS...
...HAS THE PROCESSING SPEED TO BREAK OUR UNIQUE KEYS...
KLAT
KLAT
CLICK
CLICK

KREEE
KREEE
CLICK

CLICK

...

WHERE'S TAKAO...?
KEEP OUT
立入禁止
KEEP OUT
立入禁止

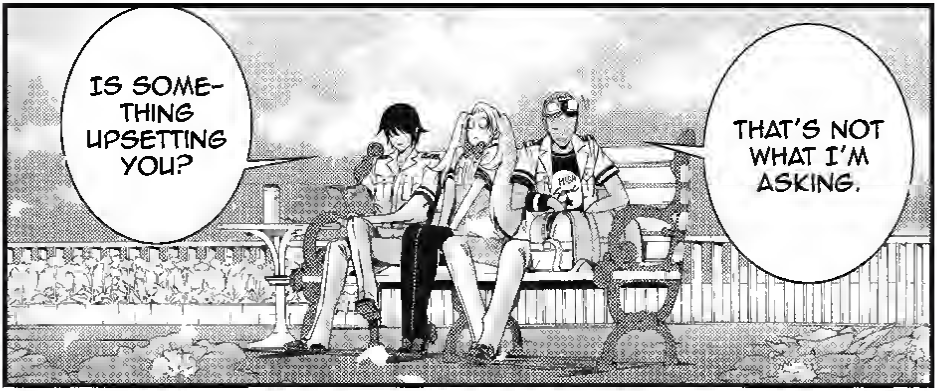

FLIP
!!

FLIP
FLIP

HEY.
THIS IS...
...
KLAT
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
KLAT
KLAT
OH, IT'S YOU, KASHI-HARA-KUN.
KLAT

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN WITH THIS YEAR'S GENERAL EXERCISES.
FLUMP
WHY...
WHY ME?
I KNOW A GUY...
...NAMED SOU ORIBE, YOU SEE...
CREAK
I KNOW HIM.
AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUB-JECT...
...I KNOW IORI WATANUKI TOO.

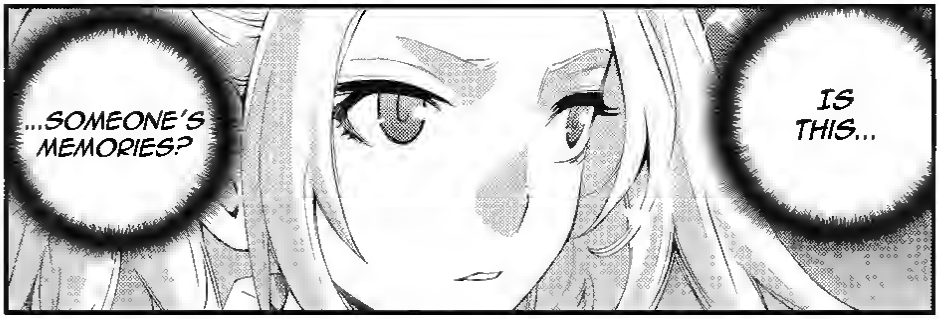
...THIS IS A FORMAL INTRO-DUCTION.
I SEE.
THEN...


IS SOME-THING UPSETTING YOU?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING.

SECOND...
I HATE THE "ELITE."

SEVERAL THINGS.
FIRST, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE ON YOUR TEAM.

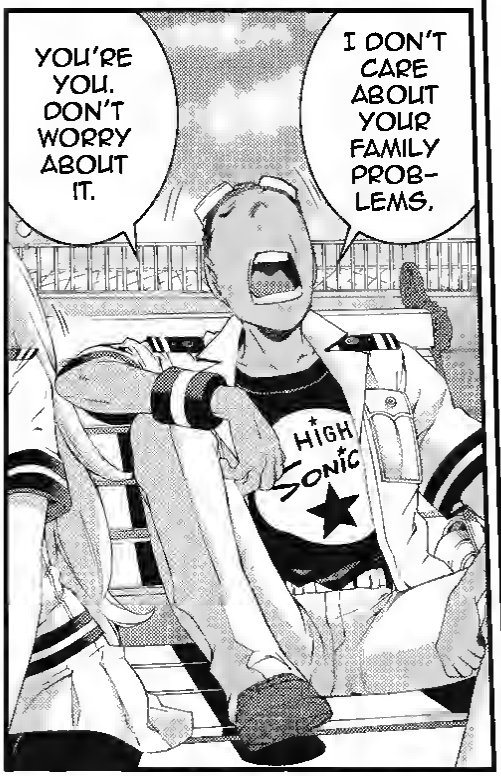
THE TWO OF THEM CAN'T SEE ME?
THIRD, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU BUT YOUR NAME.
BEEP
BEEP


...SOMEONE'S MEMORIES?
IS THIS...

TWITCH
...YOU BECAME AN ELITE THE MINUTE YOU ARRIVED AT THIS ACADEMY.
YOU DON'T LIKE THE "ELITE"?
IF YOU ASK ME...

MAN, YOU GO RIGHT FOR THE JUGULAR, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I BECAME ONE OF THE ELITES THAT I HATE.
THAT'S MY BIGGEST PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S FUNNY. I'VE GOT THE SAME PROBLEM.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE THE SON OF THE FAMOUS HERO CAPTAIN.
YOU WERE BORN ELITE.
HUH. SO YOU DO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN JUST MY NAME.
AND...

SON OF A TRAITOR? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
GUNZOU CHIHAYA...


I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY PROB-LEMS.
YOU'RE YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HIGH SONIC

I'M ALSO THE SON...
...OF A TRAITOR.

NEVER MIND.
FOR WHAT?
...
I'M GRATE-FUL.
AM I JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE?
SO WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'M OUT.
HIGH SONIC
I DID FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW.
I'D RATHER TAKE THE EXAM ALONE...
...WITH AN AI CREW ABOARD A VIRTUAL VESSEL.

!
BUT I GOT AHOLD OF YOUR GRADES.
GRAB
I JUST GATHERED WHAT WAS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.
WAIT... THAT'S PRIVATE INFORMATION!
YOU DAMN WELL BETTER HAVE!
BUT...
ACCORDING TO THIS, YOUR GRADES AREN'T GOOD AT ALL. SOME ARE REALLY BAD.
SHUDDUP!

YOUR SKILLS AS A WEAPONS CHIEF ARE UNMATCHED.
YOU'VE BEEN AT OR NEAR THE TOP EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO THE SCHOOL.
THAT'S ONE AREA...
...WHERE YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME.
I WANT PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPERIOR TO ME.
PLAP
THERE'S NO POINT IN BRINGING TOGETHER PEOPLE WHO AREN'T AS GOOD.
...
SO WHAT?

I NEED YOU.
THAT'S ALL.

I NEED YOU.
IS THAT NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
HIGH SONIC

...
YOU...
HIGH

NO, THAT'S PERFECT.
HIGH
...WEAPONS OFFICER.
HIGH SONIC
THEN I'LL BE COUNT-ING ON YOUR HELP...
TELL ME ONE THING.
DO YOU THINK...
...WE CAN GO BACK OUT TO SEA?

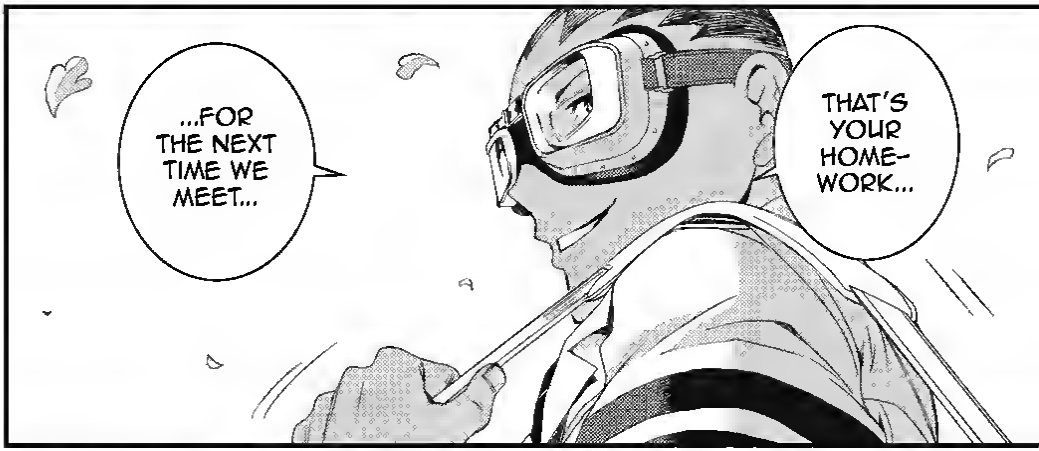
NO...
I MEAN, UH...
HUMANITY...
...
WE'RE BEING KEPT AS PETS BY THE GOVERN-MENT...
...IN ORDER TO KEEP THE SKILLS ALIVE.
IT'S POSSI-BLE...
...THAT EVEN IF WE PUT EVERYTHING WE HAVE INTO MASTERING THESE SKILLS...
...WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE THEM.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WOULD YOU BE OKAY WITH THAT?
COULD YOU ACCEPT IT EVEN IF YOU SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE...
...AS NOTHING MORE THAN AN INTER-MEDIARY?
I...
NO MATTER WHAT...
KLAT
KLAT
...I'M GOING OUT TO SEA.

AND THEN...
...I'M GOING TO TAKE BACK WHAT WE LOST.
...
I KNOW I'M GOING OUT THERE.

WHEN THAT HAP-PENS...
...I ALSO WANT TO...
I'M NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS.
OH, SORRY.
SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL BE COUNT-ING ON YOU...
...CAP-TAIN.
NOTH-ING.
NO...

IT SOUNDS WEIRD WHEN YOU CALL ME THAT. COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU TOO, KASHI-HARA.

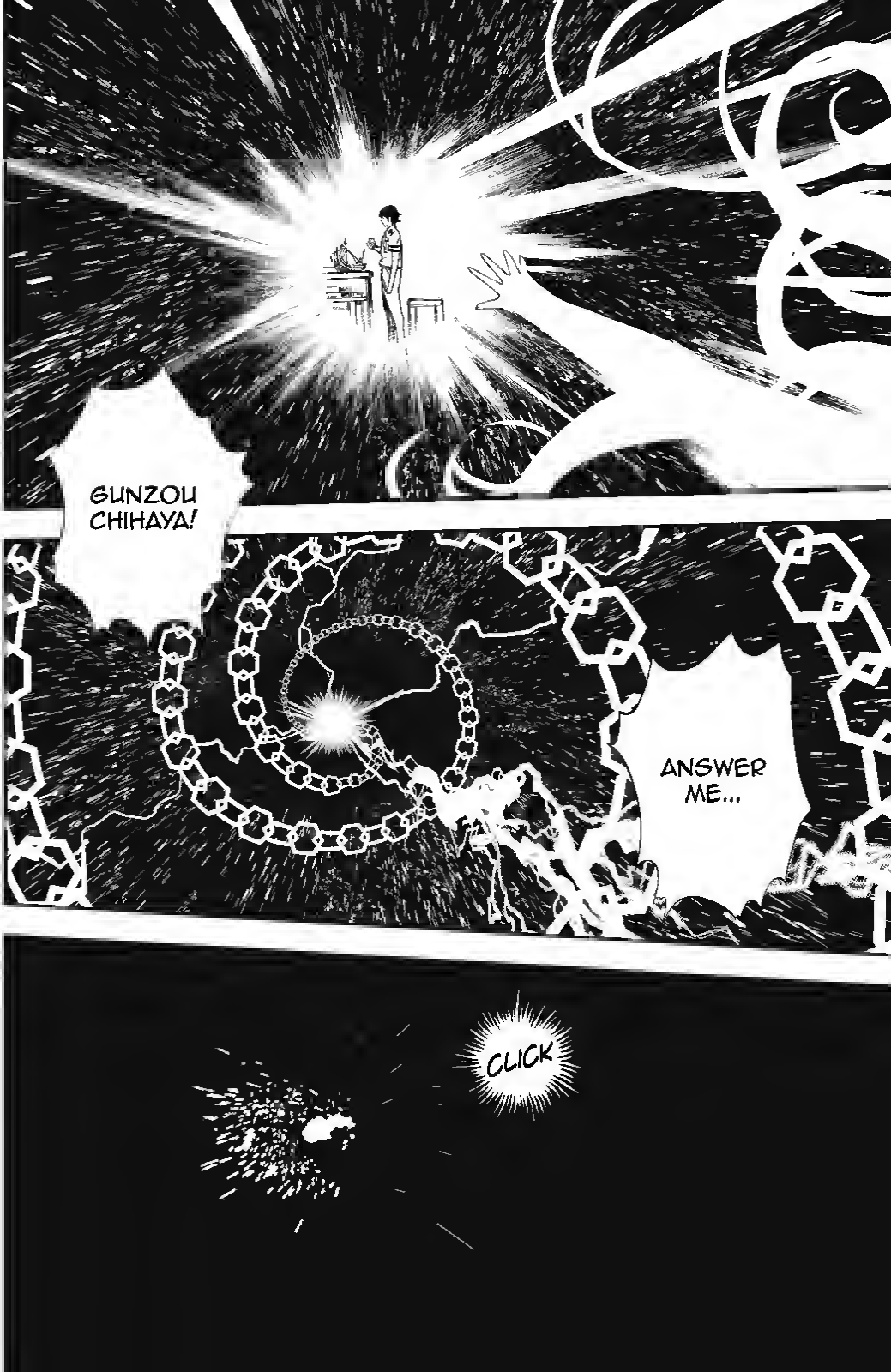

...FOR THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
THAT'S YOUR HOME-WORK...

...CAPTAIN

EVERY-
BODY'S
STRUG-
GLING...
...TO FIND
THE RIGHT
THING TO
DO.
MAYBE...
...THE FOG
ARE NO
DIFFERENT.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?
KOTONO.
WE'RE...
...JUST LIKE YOU?

GUNZOU CHIHAYA!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FLASH
!
WAIT! NOT YET...
JUST A LITTLE MORE!
ANSWER ME!


GUNZOU CHIHAYA!
ANSWER ME...
CLICK